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THE PLYUSHCH CASE AND SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS

ANNCR:

SOVIET DISSIDENT LEONID PLYUSHCH GAVE DETAILS AT A PARIS NEWS CONFERENCE ESTERDAY (TUESDAY) OF HIS TWO-AND-A-HALF YEAR DETENTION IN A SOVIET MENTAL HOSPITAL FROM WHICH HE WAS RELEASED LAST MONTH. NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN EXAMINES SOME OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PLYUSHCH EXPERIENCE UNDER THE SOVIET PENAL SYSTEM.

VOICE:

FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS -- TOO MANY IN FACT -- THE WORLD HAS HEARD TESTIMONY FROM SOVIET DISSIDENTS LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE MADE THEIR WAY OUT OF THEIR COUNTRY AS TO THE TREATMENT THEY RECEIVED FROM SOVIET AUTHORITIES IN JAILS, LABOR CAMPS AND MENTAL HOSPITALS. BUT UP TO NOW, FEW IF ANY, HAVE BEEN AS EXPLICIT OR DETAILED IN THEIR TESTIMONY AS THE SOVIET MATHEMATICIAN LEONID PLYUSHCH. HIS ACCOUNT OF HIS COMMITMENT TO A SPECIAL MENTAL HOSPITAL IN THE UKRAINE INCLUDED SUCH DETAILS AS THE USE OF MIND-DESTROYING DRUGS ON HIMSELF AND SOME SIXTY OTHER INMATES. PSYCHIATRISTS, MISTER PLYUSHCH SAID, PUNISHED RECALCITRANT INMATES WITH SULPHUR INJECTIONS THAT PRODUCED A HIGH FEVER AND EXCRUCIATING PAIN. AND TO BREAK DOWN HIS OWN RESISTANCE, HE WAS GIVEN NEUROLEPTIC DRUGS AND INSULIN.

FOR HIS RELEASE, MISTER PLYUSHCH CREDITED THE DETERMINED ACTIONS OF OTHER SOVIET DISSIDENTS, INCLUDING NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER ANDREI SAKHAROV. AND HE ALSO CREDITED THE SUPPORT

THEY ARE RECEIVING FROM NON-COMMUNISTS AND COMMUNISTS IN THE WEST -- INCLUDING THE FRENCH AND ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTIES.

MISTER PLYUSHCH REFERRED TO HIMSELF AND OTHER SOVIET DISSIDENTS AS NEO-MARXISTS. AND HE SAID THEIR PERSECUTION BY THE SOVIETS -- WHICH HE TERMED "SAVAGE" -- SHAMEFULLY STAINED THE IDEALS OF COMMUNISM.

MISTER PLYUSHCH EXPRESSED THE HOPE OF NEO-MARXISTS THAT COMMUNISTS IN THE WEST -- PARTICULARLY THE FRENCH, ITALIANS AND BRITISH -- WOULD CARRY ON THE WORK STARTED BY CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNISTS IN THE DUBCEK ERA EIGHT YEARS AGO TO REHABILITATE COMMUNIST IDEALS. HE SAID THE CZECHOSLOVAK EFFORT TO GIVE A HUMAN FACE TO COMMUNISM SHOULD BE EMULATED BY SOVIET DISSIDENTS IN AN EFFORT TO GIVE THEIR COUNTRY'S MARXISM A HUMAN FACE.

THE PLYUSHCH NEWS CONFERENCE HAS HAD REPERCUSSIONS IN TWO WIDELY SEPARATED PLACES -- PARIS AND MOSCOW. IN PARIS, SECRETARY-GENERAL GEORGES MARCHAIS TOLD THE OPENING SESSION OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST CONGRESS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT FRENCH COMMUNIST CRITICISM OF SOVIET INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS MEANS THAT FRENCH COMMUNISM CANNOT TOLERATE THE DISCREDIT OF COMMUNIST IDEALS BY INJUSTICE.

AND IN MOSCOW, THE SOVIET WEEKLY LITERATURNAYA GAZETA TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DENOUNCED SEVERAL SOVIET EMIGRE DISSIDENTS AS MENTAL CRIPPLES. AND IT FLATLY DENIED THEIR CHARGES OF SOVIET USE OF MENTAL HOSPITALS TO SILENCE DISSIDENTS. THE SOVIET ARTICLE DID NOT MENTION MISTER PLYUSHCH BY NAME, BUT IT WAS PUBLISHED ONE DAY AFTER HIS NEWS CONFERENCE -- PROOF PERHAPS THAT MOSCOW AUTHORITIES ARE INDEED SENSITIVE TO DISSIDENT VOICES BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE SOVIET UNION.

GH/RCS